

CORNER STONE LODGE A.F. & A.M. -200 YEARS IN DUXBURY

Corner Stone Lodge has always been a part of Duxbury, and Duxbury a part of it. At its beginning in 1801 when thirteen masons petitioned the Grand Lodge to found Corner Stone Lodge, Thomas Jefferson, our third president, was in his first year of office. We know Treasurer Nathaniel Winsor was one of the best known craftsmen in carving figureheads for ships. We know our seal was made by Paul Revere. Our first Master was Amos Brown. First Parish was the only church and town affairs were conducted there; all of our early officers were communicants of this church. Studley Sampson, our third Master, was Master six times, a record equaled twice later, but not exceeded. One of those whose terms equaled his was Gershom Weston, who began in 1825. He petitioned that First Parish Church be separated from the town of Duxbury in 1828. He carried on the ship-building started by his grandfather "King Caesar" Ezra Weston. Ezra was one of our original petitioners to the Grand Lodge. Seth Sprague became Master in 1820; he was active in starting Duxbury's first school committee and Pilgrim Church. He was a

Revolutionary War veteran and our first District Deputy Grand Master.

About this time there was an Anti-Masonic movement. Our charter was surrendered in 1834. However, Masonry was not dead in Duxbury. A group of masons organized the Corner Stone Charitable Association; this group continued to dispense charity. As the resentment ebbed, the Grand Lodge returned our charter in 1844.

In the following years, many notable men have added their bit to our glorious effort. To the original building of 1825, the parish house was added and dedicated in 1961. In 1857 we had the first of our traditional clam chowders; the custom continues. We participated in 1872 in the laying of the cornerstone of the Myles Standish Monument as well as that of the soldiers monument, as we had in the laying of the cornerstone of Bunker Hill forty-seven years before. At our hall in 1869, Duxbury Citizens assembled to celebrate the completion of the laying of 3,300 miles of cable from Brest, France to Duxbury. We celebrated our 100th birthday in 1902 and our



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125th in 1926. Celebrations for the 175th birthday occurred in 1976, and the 200th birthday in 2001.

And now where do we go? We revere the past and its relics. We know our Master and Warden's jewels were fashioned by Paul Revere. We know our Tyler's Sword dates from the Revolution and the cornerstone from the keeper's dwelling of Gurnet Light on which the square and compass were engraved came to us in 1971. We preserve

that haven the lodge room presents-of Equality, Friendship and Brotherly Love. Let our light so shine that we will have reached out to others--and most important-have touched the human heart. (excerpted from a speech by Kendrick Williams, P.M., 1976)

Remember when you purchase food at the Beach Party or the Holiday Breakfast, part of proceeds from the Corner Stone Lodge will support the High School Scholarship program.